The Mothers Bleſſing:

BEING

Several Godly *Admonitions* given by a Mother unto her Children upon her Death-bed, a little before her departure.

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HVNDRED

Godly Leſſons.

THe Materials and ingredients, of which our bodies are compoſed, do declare unto us that they are mortal, and ſubject unto Death, which dictate of Nature, old Age like a true and infallible Scribe hath (as you my Children may behold) long ſince written on my Furrowed face; and beſides now at this time, ſickneſs, which is Deaths Harbinger and immediate fore-runner, hath caſt me on my watery couch, and by denying me the leaſt eaſe or reſt, declares plainly, and makes me ſenſible, that the time of my departure

is at hand: Yet e're I leave the World, as Parents are wont to bestow Legacies, and to settle their estates upon their Heirs, so do I, your declining Mother confer that which I have, upon you, my obedient children. Such wealth I have not, therefore I cannot leave you Rich, for I was never any of Fortunes Darlings, loaded with abundance. And it is my wish in this matter concerning you, that as I have not hitherto greedily coveted, or covetously affected the goods of this World, so neither any of you for that time that you have to Live in this miserable World, be either too studious or solicitous in desiring or procuring the fading and perishing treasures of this Life: thus having begun to tell you what I would have you for to shun, I proceed further to tell you still what I would have you to avoid; take heed of all manner of sin, flie from it as from a Serpent, let not the worlds enticements, nor the flesh allure you unto vanity; and as I would not have you wrong your selves by sinful acts, so neither would I have you to be injurious unto others; remember that old saying of which I have made so oft times mention: Do unto others as you desire they should do to you, and what you would

would not have others do to you, that be not you to them. By remembring and constant meditating on this, you shall not miscarry in your actions. Thus having heard what you shall shun, now learn what you are to follow, piety towards God: and awfull respect, and reverance unto all those Magistrates whom he hath plac'd in Authority under himself, and love and charity to your inferiours. For your duties towards God: Open not your Chamber Doors before you have opened Heaven by your prayers; let your prayers be the key to open the Morning, and also the bolt that shuts up the night, 'tis this that must and will furnish you with all those things which you stand in need of; yet this is not enough to pray unto him for Blessings, unless ye praise him for those Blessings which you have received, and hereby you shall shew your selves thankful, and silently invite new Blessings to be poured upon you. be obedient to his commands, let his sacred word be a light unto your feet, and a lanthorn unto your paths, and desire his blessed Spirit to steer your course through the Waves of this World, and you shall be sure to arrive safely at the Haven of Happiness. Honour

the Magistrate, which I would have you, outwardly express by an awful respecting, and Reverencing of their persons and authority. Lastly, towards your Inferiours, carry your selves mildly and gently. But because Songs and Rhimes may make better impression, and stick faster in your Memories, hear them in verse.

FINIS.

An Hundred Devout Admonitions left by a Dying Mother to her Children.

Being moſt Excellent Directions for a Religious Chriſtians Converſation:

A N

AN

Hundred Godly Lessons.

My children dear mark well my words,
and keep my Precepts well,
Consider daily in your minds
the words which I shall tell:
The gain is great which shall ensue,
good counsel doth direct,
Their ways and actions for the best,
that do it not neglect.

First Worship God above all things,
vain swearing see you shun:
Hear much, but see you little say,
thereby much good is won;
Speak thou no ill of any man,
tend well thine own affairs,
Bridle thy wrath and anger so,
that thereof comes no cares.

Be

Be mild and gentle in thy speech,
both unto Man and Child,
Refuse not good and lawful gains,
with words be not beguil'd:
Forget not any good turn done,
and help thy Neighbours need,
Commit no ill in any case,
the hungry see thou feed.

Cast no man in the teeth with that
which thou for him hast done;
Remember flesh is fond and frail,
and hatred see thou shun.
Leave wicked things, then no mishap
shall thee to trouble bring,
Crave no preferment of the Lord,
nor honour of the King.

Boast not thy self before God's sight,
who knows thy heart alway:
Offend not thou the multitude,
faint not when thou dost pray:
Scorn not a man in misery,
esteem not tatling tales,
Consider reason is exil'd,
when as a Drunkard rails;

Vile

Use not thy lips to loathsome lyes,
by craft increase no wealth,
And strive not with a mighty man,
with temperance nourish healthy,
Look that thou order well thy words,
leave not thy friend for Gold,
Trust not too much before thou try,
in venturing be not bold,

In God repose thy strength and stay,
with tongue extol his praise,
Honour thy Parents, and the Lord,
he will prolong thy days,
He that his Father honour doth,
God will forgive his sin,
He that his Mother loves, is like
one that doth favour win.

A child obedient to the Lord,
his Mother comfort shall,
The Fathes blessing stays the house,
his curse doth make it fall:
A wise Child makes the Father glad,
fools do their Mother grieve,
And shame shall come to such as do
their Parents not relieve.

He that his Mother doth deske,
shall come to naught and woyle,
The Ravens shall pick out their eyes,
that do their Parents curse:
From needy men turn not thy face,
let not thy right hand know,
What thou dost with thy left hand give,
or on the poor bestow.

They that upon the poor bestow,
unto the Lord do lend,
And God unto such men again,
a thousand fold will send:
As water doth the fire quench,
whose fury great doth grow,
Even so shall mercy quench their sins,
the which do mercy show.

Hear thou God's word with earnest care,
with wisdom answer make,
Be thou not mov'd with every wind,
such course do sinners take;
Thy talk will shew thy fame or shame,
fools oft themselves annoy,
Trust not thy own will overmuch,
for that may thee destroy.

They

They that the liuing God to feare,
a faithfull friend shall find:
A true friend is a iewel rare,
and comfort to the mind.
Heare Sermons that good sentences
thou maist conceiue aright,
In Gods commandments exercise,
thy self both day and night.

Think on the pain thy mother had,
in bringing thee to life;
Feare God who knows thy secret thoughts
and look thou make no strife.
Visit the sick with carefulnes,
the Prisoners griefe consider,
Shew pitty to the fatherles,
and God will thee deliuer.

Help still to right the widdows wrong,
remember still thine end,
So thou shalt never do amiss,
nor wilfully offend:
Trust not a reconciled friend,
more then an open foe,
Who toucheth pitch, shall be defil'd,
take heed thou do not so.

Take

Take not a wife that wanton is,
and full of shameful words,
The flattering of an harlot is,
at length more sharp then Swords,
Cast not thy love on such a one,
whose looks can thee allure,
In every face where beauty is,
the hearts not always pure.

A woman fair and and undiscreet,
is like a Ring of Gold,
The which in a swines snout is set
unseemly to behold:
The malice of lewd women shun,
for they will thee destroy,
Hate her that doth on every man,
set her delight and joy.

From others let thy praise proceed,
boast not thy self in ought,
And do not hear a flattering Tongue,
thereby much ill is wrought:
The Child that doth his Parents rob,
and counteth it no sin,
A vile destroyer he is deem'd,
and shall no favour win.

Correction

Correction bringeth wisdom [illegible],
fools hate good counsel still,
That child doth shame his mother much,
that's let to have his will:
The good mans path shines as the light,
that beautifies the day,
The wicked know not where they walk,
for darkness is their way.

Put far from thee a froward mouth,
a slanderous tongue is ill,
Lend not thou an enbious mind,
in any wise fulfill.
A Parlot brings a man to beg,
in her is found no truth,
In gladness therefore live and dye,
with the wife of thy youth.

Much babling breedeth great offence,
he that speaks least is wise,
Gods blessing only makes men rich,
from thence all joys arise,
Better is little fearing God,
then bags of gold got ill,
And better is one bit of bread,
then a fat Ox with ill will.

Who brooks no warning hates his soul;
true age worship aright,
A patient man far better is
then one indued with might.
Gains credit comes by doing good;
an humble mind indeed
Is better then a Lyar proud,
from whence vain brags proceed.

By this dear children you may learn
how to direct your ways,
To God, to Parent, to Common-weale,
wherein your welfare lays.
Print well in your remembrance
the Lessons I have shown,
Then shall you live in happy state,
when I am dead and gone.

FINIS.

These are the paths in which if you walk, you shall be happy: These are the streams that will convey you to the fountain of endless bliss and comfort, and by observing these precepts you shall surely live, but on the contrary, if you shall slight my speeches, and tread these precepts under-foot; you shall neither be happy here, nor

blest hereafter. But my breath now begins to fail me, and enjoyeth me to be silent; Remember therefore these foregoing precepts, meditate daily on them; and I would not have you think that to be enough, only to remember and to meditate, but to be sure to practise them, so shall you all be happy in this life, and eternally happy in that that is to come; amiable shall you be in the sight of Men and Angels, Men shall respect you, the Angels shall protect you, and the God of Men and Angels shall Crown you with joys unspeakable, into which joys the Lord Jesus receive my Spirit: Amen.

A Wise Woman buildeth her house, the foolish destroyeth it with her own hands.

Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vanity, but a Woman that feareth the Lord, shall be praised.

She overseeth the ways of her Household: and eateth not the bread of idleness.

Her Children rise up and call her blessed: her Husband also shall praise her.

AN

AN untamed Horſe will be ſtubborn, and a wanton Child will be wilful.

If thou bring up thy Son delicately, he ſhall make thee afraid, and if thou play with him, he ſhall bring thee to heavineſs.

Laugh not with him, leaſt thou be ſorry with him, and leaſt thou gnaſh thy teeth in the end.

Give him no liberty in his Youth, and wink not at his folly.

Bow down his neck while he is young, and beat him on the ſide, while he is a Child, leaſt he wax ſtubborn, and be diſobedient unto thee, and ſo bring ſorrow to thine heart.

Chaſtize thy Child, and be diligent therein, leſt his ſhame grieve thee.

FINIS.